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D) using the selected [cell site] service provider [matched to the mobile unit] to handle communication processes associated with the mobile unit and automatically completing a call made by the mobile unit.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated 11/08/99, together with the references included therein, has been carefully reviewed.

Claims 30, 38, 53 and 61 stand rejected as being unpatentable, with references to Okamoto and Hillis being cited as evidence in support of the conclusion that the invention defined in Claims 30, 38, 53 and 61 is not patentable under the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103. The remaining claims in the application, Claims 4, 9-14, 26-29, 31, 33, 35-37, 42, 44, 49-52, 57-60, 62-64, and 66-73 have been indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, no comments will be directed to these claims, with the comments and remarks being directed to rejected claims, Claims 30, 38, 53 and 61. It is noted that Claims 38, 53 and 61 depend from Claim 30 and add further limitations thereto. Thus, the comments and remarks will be directed to Claim 30.

The independent claim, Claim 30 has been amended to specifically claim a method of making communication process management decisions in two neighboring wireless over-the-air communications systems and includes maintaining signal strength in cell sites at borders between two neighboring wireless over-the-air communications systems at a maximum and using geographic location of a mobile unit to select a service provider. The claim

also specifically states that the selected service provider is used to handle communication processes associated with the mobile unit and that a call made by the mobile unit is automatically completed. These limitations are supported in the specification in, for example, page 10, lines 2-9, page 17, lines 22-24, page 20, lines 21-23, and page 33, line 26-page 35 line 6.

As discussed in the application, maintaining signal strength at a maximum permits all calls to be clear and eliminates "fade out" and undesired call termination while permitting the correct system to handle the call.

As discussed in the application, this limitation provides important advantages to the invention.

None of the cited references suggests the maintenance of maximum signal strength in cells on the borders of neighboring systems. Therefore, the limitations discussed above in Claim 30 are not disclosed or suggested in the prior art.

For example, Okamoto discloses using the location of a mobile unit for hand-offs, but has no disclosure relating to maintaining signal strength at a maximum. Nor does Okamoto have any disclosure suggesting that neighboring wireless over-the-air communications systems may have cell sites at the borders of the two systems in which the signal strength is maintained at a maximum. Okamoto does discuss field intensity but only in relation to the complexity of using field strength to make hand offs. Okamoto has no disclosure suggesting that signal strength could be or should be maintained at a maximum in border cell

sites. Certainly, Okamoto does not have any disclosure suggesting that location is to be used to determine boundaries between neighboring system cell sites.

The Hillis patent has no disclosure suggesting such maintenance of a maximum signal strength nor does Hillis have any disclosure suggesting automatic completion of a call. Hillis discloses a multi-step process in which a user is informed of a calling rate and must request completion of a call in a separate step.

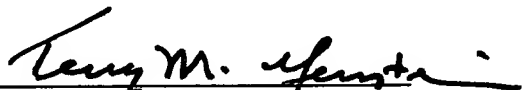
Accordingly, even combining the disclosures of Hillis and Okamoto does not suggest the method defined in Claim 30.

The remaining claims, Claims 38, 53 and 61, depend from the above-discussed independent Claim 30 and add further limitations thereto. As such, these dependent claims, also, should be allowed.

Therefore, the claims as now submitted should be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, review and allowance are requested.

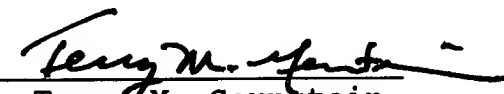
Respectfully submitted,


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MAIL CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on February 8, 2000.


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